(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of such huge amount against private airlines; and

(d) the steps taken to recover these outstanding dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The private airlines owe to the Government an amount of Rs.24.79 crores against dues of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) including interest thereon and penalties imposed for failure to pay in time. The private airlines also owe to the Government an amount of Rs.23.46 crores towards Airport Charges payable to the Airport Authority of India.

(c) and (d) The airlines which do not make payment during the stipulated period are served with a show cause notice for nonpayment of the dues. Adjudication of such show cause notices is a quasi-judicaial function and takes time to complete. Moreover, private airlines often dispute the demands in the courts and, therefore, collection is delayed.

For recovery of dues, action is initiated by detaining aircrafts of the defaulting carrier to realise the dues. The Collector of the District in which the property of the defaulter is situated is also approached to recover the tax, penalty and interest from the defaulting carriers in accordance with the law.

**Inquiry Against Cosmetic Companies Under MRTPC**

4416. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued notices of inquiry on cosmetics companies for indulging in monopolistic trade practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of charges levelled against these companies; and

(d) the outcome of the investigations and the action taken against these companies by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The MRTP Commission have issued Notices of Enquiry to M/s. Hindustan Level Limited, M/s Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited, M/s. Godrej Soaps Limited, M/s. Ponds India Limited and M/s. Lakme Limited for allegedly indulging in monopolistic trade practices and restrictive trade practices mainly by effecting unreasonable increase in prices of their products.

The MRTP Commission is a quasi-judicial body and will take further necessary action under the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969.

*[Translation]*

**Export of Agricultural Items**

4417. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export wheat for good quality like 'Durm' and edible oils during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government have fixed minimum quantity and export price for the export of such items;

(c) if so, the details thereof, item-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from the foreign investors and Non-Resident Indians regarding investment in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLI BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). A quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh MTs of durum wheat without minimum export price restriction has been released for exports the year 1996-97. As per the entry at S.No. 24(i) of Para 159 of the Export-Import Policy, 1992-97, the export of specified variety of vegetable oils is subject to export licences issued in this behalf. However, export of these vegetable oils when exported in consumer packs upto 5 Kgs. is permitted without any restriction. The export of groundnut oil is subject to licensing whether exported in consumer packs upto 5 Kgs. or otherwise.

(d) to (f). 27 proposals with foreign direct investment of Rs.47.79 Crores (24 with financial collaboration and 3 with technical collaboration) have been approved during the period 01.08.1991 to 30.09.1996. One case for investment in this sector is under consideration of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

*[English]*

**House Building/Conveyance Allowance**

4418. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been under utilisation of budgetary provisions of loans to Government servants for house building and conveyance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternatives being contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). There has been under utilisation of budgetary provisions for loans to